

§ 961.5

and telephone number where the employee may be contacted about the hearing proceedings;

(3) A statement of the date the employee received the "Notice of Involuntary Administrative Salary Offsets Under the Debt Collection Act," and a copy of the Notice;

(4) A statement indicating whether the employee requests an oral hearing or a hearing based solely on written submissions;

(5) If the employee requests an oral hearing, a statement of the evidence he or she will produce which makes an oral hearing necessary, including a list of witnesses, with their addresses, whom the employee expects to call; the proposed city for the hearing site, with justification for holding the hearing in that city; and recommended alternative dates for the hearing; which should be within 40 days from filing the Petition;

(6) A statement of the grounds upon which the employee objects to the Postal Service's determination of the existence or amount of the debt, or to the proposed offset schedule. This statement should identify and explain with reasonable specificity and brevity the facts, evidence, and legal arguments, if any, which the employee believes support his or her position;

(7) Copies of all records in the employee's possession which relate to the debt; and

(8) If an employee contends that the Postal Service's proposed offset schedule would result in a severe financial hardship on the employee and his or her spouse and dependents, an alternative offset schedule, and a statement and supporting documents indicating for the employee and his or her spouse and dependents for the one year preceding the Postal Service's notice and for the repayment period proposed by the employee in his or her alternative offset schedule, their total income from all sources; assets; liabilities; number of dependents; and expenses for food, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, and exceptional expenses, if any.

(c) The employee may, if necessary, file with the Recorder, additional information as a Supplement to the Petition on or before the thirtieth (30th)

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calendar day following the employee's receipt of the Postal Service's "Notice of Involuntary Administrative Salary Offsets Under the Debt Collection Act."

[51 FR 1251, Jan. 10, 1986, as amended at 63 FR 66053, Dec. 1, 1998]

§ 961.5 Effect of Petition filing.

Upon receipt and docketing of the employee's Petition for a hearing, the Recorder will notify the Postmaster/Installation Head and the General Counsel that the Petition has been filed and that pursuant to section 5 of the Debt Collection Act, a timely-filed Petition for a hearing stays further collection action.

§ 961.6 Filing, docketing and serving documents; computation of time; representation of parties.

(a) *Filing.* All documents relating to the Debt Collection Act hearing proceedings must be filed by the employee or the General Counsel with the Recorder. (Normal Recorder office business hours are between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., eastern standard or day-light saving time as appropriate during the year.) The Recorder will transmit a copy of each document filed to the other party, and the original to the Hearing Official.

(b) *Docketing.* The Recorder will maintain a docket record of Debt Collection Act hearing petition proceedings and will assign each employee Petition a docket number. After notification of the docket number, the employee and General Counsel should refer to it on any further filings regarding the Petition.

(c) *Time computation.* A filing period under the rules in this part excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

(d) *Representation of parties.* After the filing of the Petition, further document transmittals for, or communications with, the Postmaster/Installation Head or Postal Service shall be through their representative, the General Counsel, or, if an appropriate notice of appearance is filed, the General Counsel's